

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is being submitted in response to the Office Action mailed July 21, 2005. Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,291,593 to Abraham, *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,838,965 to Kavanagh, *et al.* Claims 2-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

Applicant has amended claim 1 and cancelled claims 3 and 7. No new matter has been added in the Amendment. Support for the Amendment may be found in the Specification and the claims as originally filed. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file a continuation application to pursue the subject matter of claim 1 before the amendment above and the subject matter of claim 7. Reconsideration of the currently pending claims, 1, 2, and 4-6 is respectfully requested in light of the amendment above and the remarks below.

I. Claims 1-7

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 2-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Before the amendment above, claim 3 depended from claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 3. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. Claims 2 and 4-6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

II. Conclusion

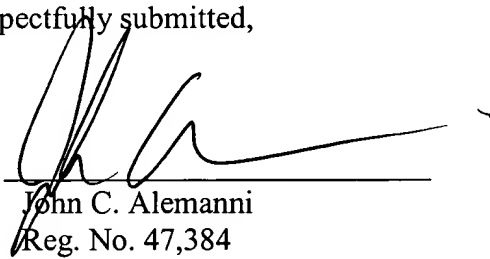
Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are allowable. A favorable Office Action is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions or suggestions of a nature necessary to expedite the prosecution of the application, or to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is courteously requested to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 21, 2005

By:



John C. Alemanni
Reg. No. 47,384

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
1001 West Fourth Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101-2400
Telephone: (336) 607-7311
Facsimile: (336) 734-2621